

REMARKS

The present application was filed on October 18, 1999 with claims 1-18. New claims 19-27 were added in a Preliminary Amendment filed by Applicants on August 30, 2000. Claims 1-27 are currently pending. Claims 1, 8, 15-19 and 24 are the independent claims.

Each of claims 1-27 stands finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or §103(a).

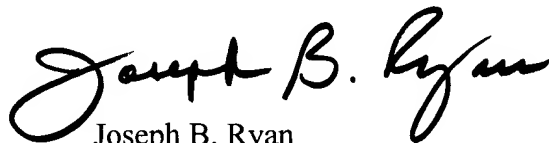
On September 2, 2003, Applicants filed an Appeal Brief, appealing the final rejection of claims 1-27. An Examiner's Answer was issued on November 18, 2003.

As indicated above, Applicants have filed an RCE concurrently herewith, thereby withdrawing the appeal in accordance with MPEP §1215.

Applicants have amended each of the independent claims 1, 8, 15-19 and 24 to specify that the wireless communication system referred to therein is a code division multiple access (CDMA) wireless communication system. In addition, each of these claims has been amended to include reference to multiple antenna sectors. Support for the multiple antenna sector limitations can be found in the specification at, for example, page 5, line 22, to page 8, line 10. Furthermore, certain of the claims have been amended to indicate that the term "subset" referred to therein is a non-empty subset, that is, a subset containing at least one element.

It is believed that claims 1-27 as amended herein are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,



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